



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi since 1926

Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 6

June 2015

Holiday Schedule:

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Photo by Mark Mann



Mark Whitmore,
Cornell University

“When EAB infestations begin in an area it can take years for the first trees to die and in these cases EAB is very difficult to detect.”

Additional information on the UGA Extension and Southern Regional Extension can be found below:

- UGA Extension, click [here](#).
- Southern Regional Extension click [here](#).

UGA Extension, Southern Regional Extension Forestry Make App for Foresters

By UGA News Service

Professional foresters have long relied on the 135-page "Service Forester's Handbook" for on-the-go access to the formulas, facts and figures they need. The pocket-sized weather-resistant field guide helps foresters convert figures, calculate volumes and dozens of other key calculations.

University of Georgia Extension and Southern Regional Extension Forestry recently released the first electronic and interactive version of the field guide, known as the "Service Forester's Toolkit."

"This handbook was originally developed by the U.S. Forest Service many years ago, and it was last updated in 1986," said William Hubbard, a Southern Regional Extension forester with the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors. "It is still in use, but it needed a review of current materials and a number of new and updated formulas... everybody I've talked to in the forestry community has said this was a long time coming."

Driven by the need to revamp a staple publication in modern forestry, Hubbard worked with UGA Extension and the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Office of Information Technology to update and develop an interactive application for Android-based tab-

lets and smart phones as well as iPads and iPhones to complement the paper guidebooks.

In addition to the facts and figures that appear in the original paper guidebook, the app—developed by the college's application programmer Benaiah S. M. Pitts—contains calculators to help foresters determine soil texture, site index, basal area of trees, tree stand density and other figures.

"Some of the information in the handbook is given in charts, and foresters in the field have to give their clients estimates or ranges," Pitts said. "Having calculators in the app will allow them to get exact numbers."

These calculators are available without access to the Internet, which was an important feature for foresters who often work in areas without reliable mobile service, Hubbard said.

The handbook, which will be useful for foresters across the South, is available as a free download through the Apple iTunes Store for both iPad and iPhone and at Google Play for Android-based tablets and smartphones.

Collaboration between UGA Extension and Southern Regional Extension Forestry earlier this year also resulted in the creation of a consumer-

oriented mobile field guide, "Native Plants of North Georgia." Based on a UGA Extension publication, the app—produced by UGA Extension and the UGA CAES information technology team—was the first created in-house by UGA Extension.

Both projects were funded by CAES and the U.S. Forest Service.

Founded in 1979, Southern Regional Extension Forestry is a collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service and southern land-grant universities. Extension foresters provide educational services to landowners and forest industry professionals in the southern U.S. For more information, see <http://www.sref.info/>

UGA Extension was founded in 1914 through the Smith-Lever Act, a federal law that established and funded a state-by-state national network of educators who bring university-based research and practical knowledge to the public. Today, Extension in Georgia is a cooperative effort by federal, state and local government partners administered by UGA and Ft. Valley State University. Throughout 2014, UGA Extension celebrates the centennial of the national Cooperative Extension System. Click [here](#) to view the source article.



Click [here](#) to view the FIA 2014 annual business report

“As the Nation's continuous forest census, our program projects how forests are likely to appear 10 to 50 years from now.”

Forest Inventory and Analysis National Program

By USDA Forest Service

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program of the U.S. Forest Service provides the information needed to assess America's forests.

As the Nation's continuous forest census, our program projects how forests are likely to appear 10 to 50 years from now. This enables us to evaluate whether current forest management practices are sustainable in the long run and to assess whether current policies will allow the next generation to enjoy America's forests as we do today.

FIA reports on status and trends in forest area and

location; in the species, size, and health of trees; in total tree growth, mortality, and removals by harvest; in wood production and utilization rates by various products; and in forest land ownership.

The Forest Service has significantly enhanced the FIA program by changing from a periodic survey to an annual survey, by increasing our capacity to analyze and publish data, and by expanding the scope of our data collection to include soil, understory vegetation, tree crown conditions, coarse woody debris, and lichen community composition on a subsample of our plots. The FIA program has also expanded to in-

clude the sampling of urban trees on all land use types in select cities.

FIA is managed by the Research and Development organization within the USDA Forest Service in cooperation with State and Private Forestry and National Forest Systems. FIA traces its origin back to the McSweeney - McNary Forest Research Act of 1928 (P.L. 70-466). This law initiated the first inventories starting in 1930.

To learn more about the importance of Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) click [here](#).

Small Town MS Country Fair

MS Agriculture and Forestry Museum

SAVE THE DATE for the Small Town Mississippi Country Fair on Saturday, July 11th from 10 am to 2 pm at the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum.

Admission will be \$6 adults & \$4 for children ages 3-18.

Join the Ag Museum for Live Music, Food, Old Fashioned Games & the Biggest Watermelon

Contest! For additional information contact the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum by calling 601-432-4500, or click [here](#)

to visit their Facebook page.



To view the Ag & Forestry Museum event calendar click [here](#).





Who Am I?

May:

Shellbark Hickory

Found on p.51 of
MS Trees Guide

- Click [here](#) for a link to the MS Trees Guide.

Tree Knowledge: Who Am I?

Leaves:

Arrangement: odd-pinnately compound, alternate, tardily deciduous-persistent

Size: 5.0" - 9.0" long;

leaflets (7 - 9), 1.0" - 2.5" long

Margin: crenate

Apex: acute to long-tapered

Base: unequally rounded to wedge-shaped

Shape: ovate to scythe-shaped

Color: bright green

above; paler below

Surface: lustrous above; somewhat pubescent below

Venation: pinnate

Twigs:

Size: stout

Color: brown; becoming gray-brown to yellow brown 2nd season

Surface: brownish pubescence 1st season; smooth by 2nd season; leaf scars broadly triangular to heart-shaped; bundle scars (3); armed with straight or curved chestnut brown spines, 0.5" long or greater

Buds:

Size: small

Shape: obtuse

Color: dark brown -

black

Surface: smooth, indistinctly scaly

Fruit and Flowers:

Capsule: wrinkled or

roughened

Size: 0.25" long; single seed

Shape: ovoid to nearly globular

Color: brown; seed black, shiny

Flower: dioecious; in terminal cymose clusters; petals 5, oval, light green; stamens 5, longer than petals

Physical Attributes:

Form: single stem

Size: 40.0', mature

Growth Rate: moderate;

40.0' maximum @ 20 yrs

Life Span: moderate (>50 yrs)

Tolerances:

Shade: moderate

Drought: low

Fire: medium

Anaerobic: none

Propagation: seed (cold stratification required),

bare root, container

Other: resprout/coppice potential

Habitat and Ecology:

Site: sandy soils near the

coast, near streams in low fertile valleys, and riverbanks

Soil Texture: fine - medium

Soil pH: 5.0 - 8.0

Range: Atlantic Coastal Plain; Virginia, west to Texas, and north to Arkansas; NRCS Plants Database also includes Oklahoma

Wildlife Value & Uses:

moderate palatability for browse animals; seeds eaten by granivorous birds; attracts butterflies; larval host and/or nectar source for the Giant Swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio cresphontes*)

Timber Value and Uses:

no commercial value; rated high as fuelwood

Landscaping Info:

not generally thought of as an ornamental, although it has aromatic, showy flowers

Who Am I?



Photo by Jayne

Click [here](#) to view the National Crime Prevention Council website.

“Try to park in well-lighted areas with good visibility and close to walkways, stores, and people.”



Click [here](#) for more information on the Prescribed Burning Short Course.

Protect Yourself Form Violent Crime

By National Crime Prevention Council

- Don't walk or jog early in the morning or late at night when the streets are deserted.
- When out at night, try to have a friend walk with you.
- Carry only the money you'll need on a particular day.
- Don't display your cash or any other inviting targets such as pagers, cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. If the person continues to follow you, move quickly toward an open store or restaurant or a lighted house. Don't be afraid to yell for help.
- Try to park in well-lighted areas with good visibility and close to walkways, stores, and people.
- Make sure you have your key out as you approach your door.
- Always lock your car, even if it's in your own driveway; never leave your motor running.
- Do everything you can to keep a stranger from getting into your car or to keep a stranger from forcing you into his or her car.
- If a dating partner has abused you, do not meet him or her alone. Do not let him or her in your home or car when you are alone.
- If you are a battered spouse, call the police or sheriff immediately.

Assault is a crime, whether committed by a stranger or your spouse or any other family member. If you believe that you and your children are in danger, call a crisis hotline or a health center (the police can also make a referral) and leave immediately.

- If someone tries to rob you, give up your property—don't give up your life.
- If you are robbed or assaulted, report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

Click [here](#) to view the source article.

Prescribed Burning Short Course 2015

October 6-8th, 2015
 Pearl River Community College
 Woodall Technology Center

906 Sullivan Drive
 Hattiesburg, MS 39401
 Cost: \$250

Space is limited to 30 people, participants will be accepted on a “first come, first served” basis.

Please contact Jeff Ware (MFC Safety/ Training Director) for more information.

Phone:
 662-401-8067

Email:
jware@mfc.state.ms.us

Metro Teachers Conservation Workshop

By Anna Kendall



Photo by Anna Kendall

“This is a highly active workshop. Come prepared for field trips, nature walks, and getting in creeks for water studies.”



Photo by Anna Kendall

Registration is now open!

The Teachers Conservation Workshop, or “TCW”, is a hands-on conservation workshop with emphasis on forests and other natural resources. Participants learn by demonstration and practical exercises how conservation practices can be integrated into classroom work and student projects.

Although this is the first year to offer the workshop in the metro-area, past TCWs receive glowing reviews.

Instructors include professionals from many of Mississippi’s forestry-related agencies, organizations, and companies.

Participants will be certified to use teaching materials of the nationally acclaimed environmental education curriculum, Project Learning Tree.

This is a highly active workshop. Come prepared for field trips, nature walks, and getting in creeks for water studies. In addition to the scheduled activities, participants enjoy networking with other educators. Participants must attend all scheduled sessions to receive the 2.0 CEU’s.

Teachers, school administrators, youth educators, and others may apply. Consideration will be given to teaching duties, subject assignments, the number of times applicant has already attended TCW, as well as the date applications are submitted.

A registration fee of \$50 is required. This fee includes all meals, snacks, materials, and continuing education fees.

Teachers are responsible for transportation to and from the workshop site each day, but field tour transportation is provided.

The fee is not refunded for cancellations after July 8. Class size is limited. Your registration will be confirmed by e-mail. **The deadline for applying is one week prior to the workshop.**

Class size is limited. Your registration will be confirmed by e-mail. The deadline for applying is one week prior to each workshop.

Workshop Schedule:

Tuesday, July 14 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Registration and first day at Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Lakeland Drive, Jackson).

Wednesday, July 15 - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 16 - 9:00

a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Workshop includes Project Learning Tree, wildlife, and museum, nature trail, industry, and timberland tours.

Click [here](#) for a link to the full brochure and registration form.

For more information please contact **Anna Kendall** with the Mississippi Forestry Association:

601-354-4936

akendall@msforestry.net



Photo by Anna Kendall



In Memoriam

Eric Hahn Hambrick, 52, passed from this life Saturday, May 30, 2015.

Visitation will be held 10:00-11:30am, Wednesday, June 3, 2015, at First Baptist Church of Jackson. Memorial services will follow at 11:30am in the church sanctuary.

Eric was a graduate of Jackson Preparatory School, Hinds Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi where he received a Bachelor's Degree in music.

Eric was a faithful member of First Baptist where he was active in the choir, taught Sunday School, and participated in various volunteer mission works with the church. A 20 year employee of the State of Mississippi, Eric had worked with MEMA for the past 15 years. Eric was an integral part of the many community theater arts associations, and a member of both the Mississippi Opera and Mississippi Chorus. His heart for service to others continued with his involvement in the Make-A-Wish Foundation and The Mustard Seed.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dewey Hambrick.

Survivors include his mother, Sara Hambrick; brother, Phil Hambrick (Suzanne); nieces, Tiffany Tripp (Brock), Malorie Hambrick and Jessica Mabry; nephew, Brandon Mabry (Morgan Gho); great-nephews and niece, Gage, Lawson, Laikyn and Kyria; and many dear friends and associates.

“Eric Hambrick worked in the State Office as a Purchasing Agent.”

Personnel News

Six out of seven members of the Urban Forest Strike Team attended the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) Training in Columbus, MS in May. This included all four MFC personnel involved with the UFST.

—Todd Matthews

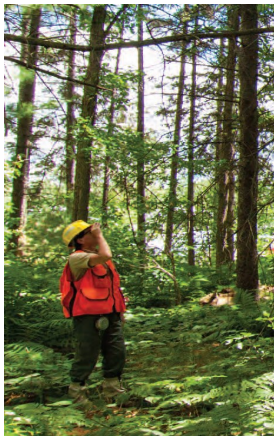


Photo by Leslie Robertson
courtesy National Association
of State Foresters

WELCOME!

- Martin Sweeney, Forrester Trainee, Pearl River County - SED
- David Anderson, Forest Ranger I, Newton County - SCD

Moving On

- Buddy Woods, Leake county Ranger IV – retired
- Lee Roland, Neshoba county Ranger IV – retired
- Mike Randazzo Noxubee Technician III—retiring





Photo by Condie Ward

“Being surrounded by nature and natural items provides infinite benefits to children.”

- Click [here](#) to view the source article.

Connecting Young Children with Nature

By Condie Ward, Teaching Young Children, Vol. 8, No.1

Children and nature go together—or should. Recent studies document the importance of introducing children to the natural world, beginning in the early years. Their social, emotional, and physical health depends on this exposure to develop. Humans are hardwired to need nature—because we are part of it. In some communities, children lack access to nature and the freedom to explore local flora and fauna. How can children care about nature if they haven’t experienced it firsthand? Adults must do what they can to ensure that children have those opportunities. I teach a class of 16 active 4-year-olds. It is early October and today the children are observing a salamander and a common black cricket. Each creature is housed separately in a clear plastic container with a lid. As the children arrive they are immediately drawn to inspect the critters more closely, parents in tow. What is it? they want to know. Parents ask the same question. Comments from the adults play a key role in children’s comfort level. If adults show fear or disgust, they might need to learn about nature too.

Being surrounded by nature and natural items provides infinite benefits to children. Nature instills in everyone a sense of beauty and calmness. It exposes us to things that are alive and growing and promotes curiosity and exploration. With an adult as a guide, children can learn about being gentle and respecting living things. Self-esteem can thrive outdoors because nature doesn’t judge people. At a time when bullying is prevalent—even

in preschools—exposure to nature can help remind children that the world contains an infinite variety of things and all are important. To observe nature requires patience and quiet watchfulness. Imagination comes into play as children create special places and use natural items to create stories and play. All senses become engaged when children interact with the natural world.

Nature enriches life: On any given day in our classroom we may highlight a live creature, but every day each learning center offers natural items. They are intentionally selected to invite children’s interest. We put out natural materials that will challenge and inspire children’s thinking with no set outcome. These have included findings from the beach, forest, and other ecosystems. For example, we added rocks and sticks to the building area, along with an assortment of wooden blocks. Many times rich discussions and experiences grow out of these starting points.

For preschoolers, learning about what is in one’s own backyard is a great place to start. It is where children can get up close and personal with the environment. This kind of learning prepares children for the primary grades, when they will deepen their nature knowledge by learning about the world at large.

Each year I make a tree the focal point of the room to make the classroom feel more like the outdoors. This tree is usually housed in the nature corner, a loosely defined area next to the

windows. One year I built a grid-shaped nature wall using tall, thin young trees that I spaced a foot and a half apart. This backdrop provided a canvas on which to display natural items collected by children and teachers, such as birds’ nests, giant leaves, and pinecones, which the children were allowed to touch and examine. Children’s artwork and photos of nature were displayed in the open squares of the grid.

The children felt a strong connection to the nature wall because they had a direct hand in its creation. It told a story about the children in the class. Children often played or read a book near it. By bringing nature indoors, the children’s daily world became richer and more memorable.

Conclusion: There can never be too much nature inside a classroom. It is the antidote to the fast-paced, stressful world in which many young children live. Equally important, it encourages an appreciation of the natural world on which we depend. As an educator, it is my job to help children connect with nature in as many ways as possible. Over the years I have seen the numerous benefits from this relationship. The primary benefit is that children become better observers and feel more connected to the outdoors. I’ve also witnessed children with challenging behaviors focus for extended periods of time when exposed to the natural world. Their curiosity is piqued by what is around them. All children can benefit from exploring and spending time in nature.





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The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.


June 2015
Newsletter

Our Mission

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is proud of its service to the public and its protection of the state's valuable forest resource. Committed to delivering quality services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners, the Forestry Commission looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees and forests. **Serving Mississippi Since 1926.**

Our Mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy.

